



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY-LED CULTURAL EVENTS Report Back

Park Board Committee Meeting

Monday, June 1, 2026



*National Indigenous People's Day, Moberly
Arts and Culture Centre, 2025*



Land Acknowledgement

- To report back to the Board on 3-year Corporate Sponsorship Fund support for Indigenous community-led cultural events (2022-25), to share learnings and proposed next steps
- THAT the Park Board approve \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund for 2026 to support staff and services for Indigenous community-led cultural events and initiatives in parks



RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.



LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



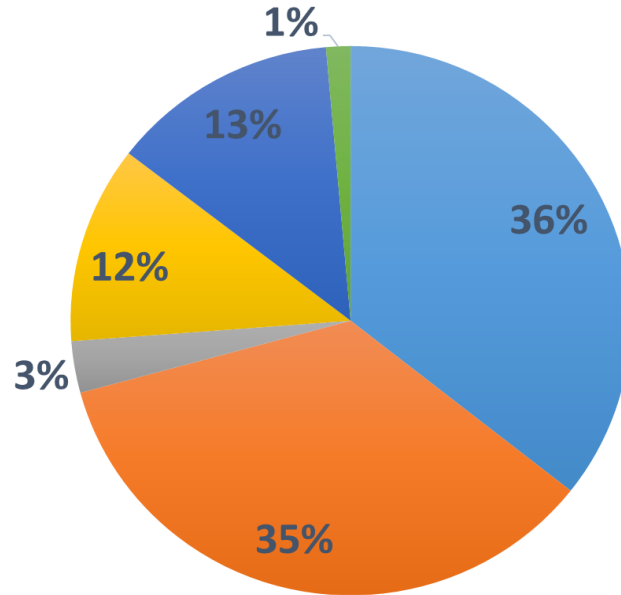
- In 2022 Park Board approved \$150,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund to support emergent Indigenous community-led cultural ceremony and events in parks.
- Between 2022-2025, Park Board supported 18 cultural events in parks led by the local Nations and Urban Indigenous organisations.
- The one-time funding enabled staff to bring operational, technical, production and funding support to the organization of Indigenous-led cultural events and ceremonies in parks.

Background: Board Authority, Policy and Previous Decisions



- Park Board: Eleven TRC Strategies (2016)
- Truth-telling Report (2017)
- Park Board Reconciliation Mission, Vision and Values (2018)
- VanPlay Goals & Framework (2020)
- \$150,000 One time Corporate Sponsorship Fund for Indigenous Community Events (2022)

May 2022	Squamish Mask Ceremony at Xway Xway
Apr 2023-ongoing	MMIMB2S (Murdered and Missing Indigenous Men, Boys and 2 Spirit individuals Memorial March & Canoe Launch
July 2023	Squamish Nation <i>Return to Seḥákw</i> Celebration
Aug 2023 & 2024	Circles Indigenous Music Festival
June 2024	Indigenous People's Day Movie Night in Stanley Park
July 2024-ongoing	Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-wututh Community Days in sṮəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 Park
Sept 2025	Tsleil-Waututh Nation Community Day at Xway Xway
Sept 2025	Kilala Lelum Dream Canoe Launch, Truth and Reconciliation Day



- Staffing
- Operating Supplies & Equipment
- Traffic Control
- Catering
- VPD/Security

- Park Board's support to enable Indigenous community-led work is an organizational and staff priority.
- Staff developed a sustainable approach for 'flexible consistency,' responding to the needs of unique events and projects.
- Relationships and capacity evolve over time as Park Board support enables capacity building for Indigenous organizations and groups.



- This complex work is not currently funded through any department or program.
- \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund for 2026 supports Staff and Services for Indigenous Community-led cultural events and initiatives in Parks as bridge funding until a new, consistent fund of \$50,000 annually can be integrated into the annual operational budget to support this work.
- Funds support capacity of the event organizers to work within our system. Between 2022 and 2025, this included support for permits, risk management, policing, traffic management and events infrastructure

- Park Board's policy for use of CSF was developed in 1998 and includes the following use criteria:
 - a) To fund one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will support revenue-generating activities and the money repaid into the Corporate Sponsorship Account from the increased revenues within a period of three years
 - b) To fund initiatives with one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will result in improved efficiencies
 - c) To fund one-time expenditures over and above the existing funding levels in the operating budget which are beneficial to the overall Parks and Recreation system
- All contributions from the CSF require Board approval

This work has been funded once through the Corporate Sponsorship Fund (CSF). Given its importance Staff support this 2nd funding request for the following reasons:

- Request aligns with approved Fund use Criteria C
- The importance of this ongoing work to our Reconciliation Mandate and continuing to build positive relationships of trust with the local Nations and Urban Indigenous Community
- CSF has a healthy balance which can be used to support this important work



*Spakwus Slolem Eagle Song Dancers,
sʰəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 Park, 2023*

- Park Board has the increasing opportunity to support emergent Indigenous-led events in parks.
- This work is foundational to our Reconciliation Mission and Mandate and Park Board commitments to Reconciliation as directed by VanPlay.
- A small dedicated budget will be transformative to this area of work increasing vibrancy in parks

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive the report on 3-year Corporate Sponsorship Fund support for Indigenous Community-led Cultural Events

- B. THAT the Park Board approve a withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund for 2026 to support Staff and Services for Indigenous Community-led cultural events and initiatives in Parks.

Questions?



